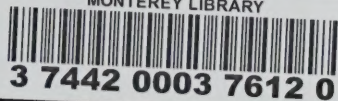


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MONTEREY

REPORT

VOLUME II NUMBER II

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DEMOCRATS ENDORSE SLATE AT CAUCUS. TWO CONTESTS SEEN. by Steve Small

The Monterey Democratic Party, at its March 28th caucus has endorsed a slate of candidates of the May 3rd Town Meeting. The position of Town Moderator and one seat on the Cemetery Committee have been contested.

Democrat Eugene O'Connell, who has held the position of Moderator for three years, is being challenged by Republican John Carlson. Eugene and his family have been permanent residents of Monterey for about twenty years. He feels "a moral obligation to participate in town political life, because of a love of Monterey."

His main strength as Moderator, Eugene feels, lies in the view that he has given all interested parties a chance to voice their opinions at the town meeting. This is essential to a successful and democratic meeting.

"The ability to maintain the balance between the people's opportunity to speak out and the Moderator's responsibility to keep the meeting moving smoothly and efficiently is a very important function as Moderator," Eugene stated. "and a sense of humor and a strong voice help to maintain this balance."

Other qualifications mentioned by Eugene as essential are a good knowledge of parliamentary procedure and an even-tempered personality. Mr. O'Connell expressed the hope that the voters of Monterey would give him the opportunity to serve another year as Moderator.

In the second contested race, Democrat Claude Burke, a member of the Cemetery Committee for six years, is being challenged by Republican Harold Greene.

MDR urges all readers to attend the Town Meeting on Saturday, May 3rd and to vote for the following slate:

Board of Appeals	five years	Osborne E. Dugan (I)
	three years	Peter Vallianos (D)
Assessor	three years	Cynthia M. Weber (D)
Auditor	one year	John F. Jefferson (I)
Cemetery Committee	three years	Claude H. Burke (D)
Constable	three years	Raymond W. Tryon (I)
Finance Committee	three years	Sheldon E. Fenn (R)
Library Trustee	three years	Betty Lee Carlson (R)
		Anne Marie Makuc (R)
Moderator	one year	Eugene W. O'Connell (D)
Park Commission	three years	Anne E. Vickerman (R)
Planning Board	five years	Barbara J. Tryon (R)
Board of Selectmen	three years	Stefan Grotz (D)
Tax Collector	three years	Henry J. Makuc (D)
Treasurer	three years	Barbara A. Gauthier

MONTEREY AND THE ENERGY PROBLEM. by Mickey Friedman

The energy crisis is crunching. It's fueling inflation: we have increased prices, limited supplies, and the threat of war. The energy crisis cannot help but touch our lives. It presents political questions and ethical questions. Who shall own energy? How much energy should America use? How much energy shall each of us use? Where will our energy come from?

There is more and more talk this election year about energy. President Carter wants billions of dollars to develop synthetic fuel from coal out West, while relaxing environmental standards. John Anderson wants a 50¢ tax on every gallon of gasoline to reduce our driving. Most of the talk is of large systems: more nuclear power plants, space satellites to collect solar energy and massive coal mining.

To my mind, such talk leaves us out in the cold, paying handsomely for larger and larger subsidies to the oil companies, who not only own the oil, but the uranium and coal as well.

What can the ordinary Monterey resident do about this and what has been done?

The Monterey Energy Project is an attempt to find answers here at home, with the tools we have close at hand. We're a mixed group of many politics drawn together to address a common concern. What will we do when gas is close to a dollar-fifty a gallon and heating oil is hard to afford? What will we do tomorrow?

Right now we are captives. Did you know that 80% of New England's total energy is derived from oil? And 79% of that oil is imported. Energy costs are 26% higher in New England than the national average. We are dependent and vulnerable.

The Monterey Energy Project, more than forty of your neighbors, has

(MONTEREY AND THE ENERGY PROBLEM, cont.)

a three-part program to address these problems: an audit of town energy use, an inventory of energy resources, and the development of a town plan to conserve and produce energy here at home.

Through the Monterey News and home visits, we've been distributing energy questionnaires. We want to find out exactly how much energy we're using and in what ways. This will help us to identify the ways we can conserve energy. It will give us a clear idea what energy is costing. If we know how much we spend today, we can figure out what alternatives make sense and which ones are just nice dreams. We have received completed forms from approximately 20% of the homeowners in town, and we expect another major push once the weather improves.

Some energy sources are particularly appropriate to small, local development. The Monterey Energy Project wants to explore the energy that's available here: the sun, the wind, the water and biomass conversion (wood, garbage, crops) to produce alcohol/methanol. To the extent that we can produce energy here at home, we can help to determine energy prices and will help free ourselves from energy captivity by promoting local self-reliance. Sounds good. Can it work?

We think so, but we're going to find out exactly by checking the potential of the wind and the water, by setting up anemometers on the hillsides, by hiring a water-power expert to check the Konkapot and our other brooks, and by compiling an inventory of our wood supply. It's hard, detailed work, but we've begun. We intend to offer a progress report on what we've learned so far on Saturday, May 24th, Monterey Energy Day. Please join us in a discussion of these problems, for practical workshops, and an assessment of our work.

We want to involve as many people as possible in the development of a specific energy plan: an approach that encompasses saving energy, producing energy, and coordinating community efforts.

What might this look like? We could have a town energy corporation to develop a series of windmills or small hydro-sites to produce electricity for our town. Or we could apply for federal and state money to buy a van and institute a mini-transportation system to Gt. Barrington.

There are, of course, as many ideas as there are people.. Rick Mielke has suggested buying a large oil tank so that we could purchase oil in bulk at much cheaper prices. Alice Schick wants to use the town garbage and the brush we gather each year to produce fuel for town vehicles.

Town energy planning means investigating these ideas, figuring out which ones are cost-effective, presenting workable ideas, developing a program, and implementing it intelligently.

If this sounds like too much, it is. We should have begun long ago. It's a difficult process, but an exciting one. It's democracy in action. We welcome your suggestions, your support, but most of all, your participation.

MDR INTERVIEW. THIS ISSUE: STATE REPRESENTATIVE DENNIS DUFFIN.

Dennis Duffin, 49, is the Democratic State representative from the fourth district of Berkshire County. This district is composed of 19 small towns south and east of Pittsfield, including Monterey.

Mr. Duffin first held public office 25 years ago, serving several terms on the Lenox School Committee and Board of Selectmen. He was elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives in 1970 and was appointed to the Committee on Insurance. He then was assigned to the Committee on Public Service and became its chairman 5 years ago. The following year, he was named vice-chairman of the powerful Ways and Means Committee, through which most important appropriations must pass.

Rep. Duffin, a graduate of Holy Cross College and a former industrial account representative, lives in Lenox with his wife, Ann Marie. The Duffins have eight children.

MDR Interview conducted by Editor Bruce Garlow.

Q. You are the sponsor of a bill, pocket vetoed by Gov. King last year, that would increase state aid to public libraries by \$1.9 million annually. Do you know why he vetoed it? And also, what is your forecast for this year's bill and what effect will it have on local libraries.

A. It's not totally clear why Gov. King vetoed the bill. In spite of the information that I provided which showed only \$1.9 million in new money for libraries, at the last moment someone erroneously told him that it would cost about \$8 million. He then chose not to sign it.

This year we reintroduced our original bill which would have provided about \$3.8 million. But after several soundings, including discussions with the governor's office, we decided to stick with the \$1.9 million. Based on discussions with the Governor and his Secretary of Administration and Finance, I believe he will sign it. (Ed. note: Gov. King signed this bill into law April 12th in a ceremony in Pittsfield.)

Q. And this money to be appropriated will just maintain the status quo? It doesn't represent any new programs, does it?

A. That's right. There hasn't been a change of funding for libraries

DUFFIN (cont.)

since 1972 and since then, libraries have been subject to the same inflationary pressures as everybody else. Therefore, services have been drastically cut.

There are two elements to this bill. First, it funds the state's three regional systems. They have no other funding source, other than an occasional federal grant. In our area, the regional system operates the bookmobiles and the inter-library lending program. Additionally, the regions have operated film, tape and record programs that have been cut back. Probably 60% of the \$1.9 million will go to the regional systems.

The balance will go to the individual public libraries of the state on the basis of a population distribution. There are some minimum standards that a library must agree to in terms of hours of operation, training standards, etc. And probably the most important thing in order to get the grant is that a library must provide its services to any resident of the Commonwealth, without a fee. Some years ago, I understand, this was not the case.

Q. You are also a sponsor of a bill that would help communities fight the weed problems in Massachusetts lakes and ponds. What factors will determine which lakes get public assistance and which Southern Berkshire lakes and ponds are likely to qualify?

A. At this point it would be too early to tell which lakes might qualify, but I would think one of the leading candidates would be Lake Buel.

This bill is an attempt to go beyond the "band-aid" approach. In the past, from \$100,000 to \$200,000 has been appropriated annually for the entire state for weed control. These funds have been used primarily for one or two shot dousings of herbicide or harvesting techniques. More recently, the state has been providing funds for a "planned approach" to the problem.

An entire study of the watershed and off-lake area is important. What's the cause of the eutrophication? Is it just a natural watershed flow from forests and woodlands? Is it because of faulty private sewer arrangements? Is there farmland around that has fertilizer which causes nutrients to flow into the lake? It's important to determine what the basic cause is.

To receive funds, it's also important to know, for example, if the general public will be assisted by this, in addition to those who might have private land holdings. To what extent is there public access? To what extent does the public use it for a variety of purposes? Obviously, if substantial state or federal money is to be used, these are concerns.

Q. An extremely important issue that you are involved in is that of the perilous condition of the state's public employee pension fund. According to the Boston Globe, it was discovered in 1976 that the state had fallen \$7.6 billion behind in stockpiling pension money already earned by workers. How did the state allow this to happen?

A. It happened in the late 1930's, when policy-makers decided the state would provide a so-called "pay-as-you-go" pension program. Money would be withheld from employees' salaries and would be invested. The employer share, however, whether it be state, county, or municipal, would not come until the employee retired. Then, the employer would simply put into its annual operating budget the amount necessary to fund each share of the annual cost of each retiree.

At that time, there were very few governmental employees and very few going into retirement. This system was probably less expensive than setting aside employer/employee money and using it to earn interest to develop a retirement fund. But like many things that are pragmatically cheaper at the time, it turned out to be more expensive in the long run.

When you talk about a \$7.6 billion unfunded liability, it means that those employees, at the time of that valuation, had already generated enough credits that the governmental units essentially owed them that much. This liability grows every day and will continue to grow. The only way you can overcome this is to start funding: putting money aside and compounding interest as a means of generating income, instead of using tax dollars.

Now, the only thing we have going for us is a law passed last year that provides \$14 million annually to the fund from a previously enacted Special Alcoholic Beverages Tax. It's a spit in the ocean, as it were, toward meeting our obligations.

Q. So, what's the legislature doing about it?

A. The legislature is doing very little. Fortunately, there is a growing awareness of this problem. The first response was about three years ago when \$10 million was put in the state budget towards funding the state employees' and teachers' pension. This was the first concrete step. The next year we were the fortunate recipients of a one-time adjustment from the federal government on a welfare program. We were able to apply \$50 million of that to the pension fund. We also refinanced previously passed bond issues and freed up \$30 million.

DUFFIN (cont.)

Last year, the House Ways and Means Committee recommended \$25 million but that didn't stand up in conference with the Senate, so the compromise was about \$13 million. So that's been it, in total, except for the \$14 million annually from the new law that I mentioned earlier. I guess that all we can do is to beat the drums to raise the issue, to hope that our constituencies raise the issue.

Q. Aside from the issues that we have talked about, what are your legislative priorities for this year?

A. I think that my biggest priority is working out an acceptable budget. I think it's going to be a great challenge to come out with a budget that's balanced and meets the needs of the Commonwealth.

Obviously, the Library Bill is, in terms of regular legislation, the number one thing with me. I've been crusading on that for five years now, and it's about time we got something into law.

There are other things happening in the House, such as legislative reaction to the Governor's proposed changes in the Office for Children. I happen to think that the agency is doing an excellent job in most of the areas it's been involved in. I wouldn't agree with his proposed changes unless they can show a lot more factual information than they have to date.

I don't really see this year lots of big legislative issues, crusading programs or innovative approaches. It appears that given the tightness of the money situation, a legislator would have to be totally inert not to understand that people are concerned about taxes and concerned about the cost of government.

TOWN BOARDS, COMMITTEES, AND COMMISSIONS.

Council on Aging Chairman Alfred Rolfe reports that the council is in the process of applying for funds under the Older Americans Act for additional transportation in South County. Currently, there are two van trips weekly to the Nutrition Site and Senior Center and one bus trip to Pittsfield. For bus reservations, call (early in the week) 528-1947.

Board of Assessors Chairman Paul Thorn states that all assessments in town have been reviewed as of Jan. 1, 1980 and will be reflected in bills dated Oct. 1980 and May 1981. The town remains at "full and fair cash valuation" and the board recommends to the Selectmen that the present relationship between different classes of property in town be continued upon the implementation of the new classification system.

Osgood Dugan, Board of Appeals Chairman, reports that the board has reorganized itself and has adopted new rules and regulations under state guidelines. The application procedure and conduct of hearings have been revised. Applicants for variances, special permits, and appeals may obtain forms and instructions from the town offices.

Monterey's parks will be active this spring and summer, reports Park Commission Member Joel Schick, beginning with the Energy Fair in Greene Park on May 24. The park will also host Little League, Sunday football and the Firemen's Picnic. The basketball court will be finished and volleyball and horseshoes will be added. The commission will again provide a life guard and swimming lessons at the beach and will finish construction and landscaping of the parking area.

Planning Board Member William Brockman states little activity since our last report. A few Form A divisions of land were endorsed and two preliminary proposals concerning non-conforming divisions have been referred to the Appeals Board.

As of Nov. 1, 1979, the Cemetery Committee has adopted new rules and regulations regarding residency requirements, corner stone installation and plantings. For further information, contact Chairperson Florence Brown.

In the past year, reports School Committee Member Joseph Burkholder, money has been saved by changing and cutting bus runs, carrying out a host of energy saving measures and revising some personnel functions. At the same time, the Math, English, Social Studies and Art Programs have been improved.

School Superintendent Thomas Consolati states, "It takes professional opinion and public outlook together to specify and make explicit school goals. Candid and constant communication between the two is essential. Given the necessary support, the district has the flexibility and capability of providing our children with the needed skills and knowledge for the 1980's and 90's."

The Conservation Commission is hoping to receive a grant from the federal government to improve the weed conditions in Lake Buel, reports Chairperson Kay Nielke. Up-to-date mapping of our wetlands is a continuing goal. Attempts are being made to identify all areas that might contribute to the pollution of our streams, environmental as well as manmade factors.

TOWN BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS (con't.)

Town Clerk Suzanne MacIver reports a total of 454 registered voters as of Feb. 5, 1980, with 165 Independents, 168 Democrats and 121 Republicans.

Dates to register for the Sept. 16 primary are: Aug. 1, 5, 11 and 12, 6 to 8 P.M. Aug. 16, noon to 8 P.M. and Aug. 19, 9 A.M. to 10 P.M., all at Suzanne MacIver's.

Dates to register for the Nov. 4 general election are: Sept. 19, 23, 26 and 29, 6 to 8 P.M. at Suzanne MacIver's. Also, Oct. 4, 9 A.M. to 2 P.M. at Lucie Lancome's; noon to 4 P.M. at Patricia Amstead's; and 4 to 8 P.M. at Suzanne MacIver's. And on Oct. 7, 9 A.M. to 2 P.M. at Luci Lancome's; 2 to 6 P.M. at Patricia Amstead's; and 6 to 10 P.M. at Suzanne MacIver's..

Board of Selectmen Chairman Stefan Grotz states that the board's meeting time has been changed from 8 P.M. to 7 P.M. every Monday night. The Selectmen have appointed an ad hoc Energy Committee to investigate nuclear impact on the town from potential power plant failure, waste shipment through town and evacuation procedures in the event of a nuclear accident.

In addition, the Selectmen have appointed a Salary Commission to investigate and report on the salaries presently authorized for elected and appointed officials. They have also authorized preliminary studies of the weed problem at Lake Buel, altered insurance carriers, authorized a revised bookkeeping schedule and appointed Roger Tryon as Tree Warden and Dan Whitbeck as Police Officer.

As the Board of Health, the Selectmen have revised percolation and deep hole testing periods to include a late fall testing period, if conditions permit.

EDITORIAL. by Bruce Garlow

An examination of various Southern Berkshire voting lists reveals some interesting information. In each of the towns surveyed, Gt. Barrington, Alford, Monterey, Sheffield and New Marlboro, there is a larger percentage of registered Republicans than the statewide average of 14.6% and a smaller percentage of Democrats than the large statewide average of 47%. These statistics probably don't surprise many people, as Republicans have traditionally been stronger here than in many areas of the state.

More interesting, however, is an examination of the independent vote in our area. Statewide, only 38.2% of the voters are listed as independent. In Gt. Barrington, that figure is 52%. In Sheffield, 59%. And in New Marlborough, a whopping 62.7% of the voters have declined to enroll in either major party and are listed as independent. It appears that in most South County towns, a majority of voters prefers to avoid partisan politics and registers as "unenrolled" or independent.

Monterey is the exception. Only 36% of our town's voters are registered as independent, less than the state average and much less than the average in our area. Democrats comprise 37% of the total voters and Republicans, 26.6%. One of the reasons for the increased partisan registration and activity in this town can be attributed to the labors of Fred Lancome, retiring chairman of the Monterey Town Democratic Committee.

In his six years as chairman, Fred has helped swell the ranks of Democratic voters in this town and has seen the committee treasury rise from \$10 in 1974 to \$1000 today. A large amount of this money was raised by the Fund Raising Committee, an entity that Fred created.

In addition to voter registration drives and fund raising, Fred has been active in organizing speaking engagements for various Democratic candidates. During his tenure as chairman, the Monterey Town Democratic Committee hosted receptions for former Gov. Michael Dukakis, Congressional candidate Edward McCollan, State Rep. Dennis Duffin and, more recently, County Commission candidate Sherwood Guernsey.

And it was under the auspices of Fred Lancome that this newsletter was conceived and published, and without whose enthusiastic support would probably not have come to fruition.

Fred is not retiring entirely from town Democratic activities. He will continue to be a member of the Town Democratic Committee and has been named to chair the Speaker's Committee.

Replacing Fred as chairperson is Mrs. Kay Nielke, a member of the Town Democratic Executive Committee and activist in local political affairs. MDR wishes to thank Fred Lancome for his outstanding service to the committee and sends along best wishes to Kay Nielke as his replacement.

And finally, I must announce my resignation as editor of this newsletter. I have moved to Housatonic and I feel that it would be inappropriate for me to continue in this position. Many thanks to all of you for continued support and encouragement.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

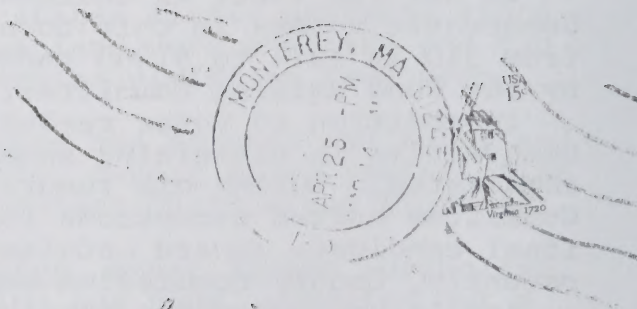
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MONTEREY DEMOCRATIC REPORT
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